The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Too long, that some may rest,
Tired millions toil unblest.
—William Watson.

VOL. 16, NO. 29. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1926. WHOLE NO. 808.

## ANTI-UNIONIST OFFERS ANOTHER GOLD BRICK

Mr. Thomas E. Mitten, president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, has another plan to stop strikes.

He says employes of a given industry, should be made controllers of its capital stock.

Prior to the Mitten "union," wages of these workers were based on the average wage of street car men in the unionized cities of Chicago, Detroit and Buffalo. As rates were raised too often in the three cities, the plan was abandoned and the company "union" installed.

This did not usher in the millennium, and Mr. Mitten devised the market basket system of setting wages. This rigidly and arbitrarily sets the worker's living standard by raising or lowering wages as the cost of filling his stomach goes up or down.

The Philadelphia street car official now suggests that employes take charge of a given industry through their ownership of the common stock.

This is an alluring picture—if it is not examined.

After a corporation has been "milked" it is considered good financiering to "unload."

With profits eaten up by interest charges, no funds for replacement of worn-out equipment and common stock dividends out of the question, there is but one finish.

The scheme has been worked times without number by railroads and other public utility corporations.

The financial structure of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company is a sample of this financiering. Its outstanding common stock totals $30,000,000. Its outstanding preferred stock amounts to $8,000,000, but it is authorized to issue a total of $18,000,000. Its funded debt is $81,000,000.

Mr. Mitten now suggests that employes take over this Niagara of "water" and control the company—that is, assure interest to bondholders and preferred stockholders on the paper they hold.

The workers had no voice in the amount of charges that have been piled up against the company. Common stock is not a charge—it is a gamble. If dividends are not forthcoming, these holders can whistle. If bondholders are not paid their interest, they can ask the courts to appoint a receiver.

The latest illustration of this system is the bankruptcy of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Interest on bonds were not paid and receivers were appointed. A bondholders' committee, representing powerful financial interests, has recommended that an assessment of $38 be levied on each share of common stock.

This is how the "little fellow" is squeezed.

Trade unionists who have a knowledge of financial jugglery are not interested in owning gold bricks in the shape of over-capitalized, debt-ridden corporations.

Advocates of this scheme may talk of "industrial democracy," but they do not fool labor.

## TEAPOT DOME LEASE OUTLAWED BY COURT

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 2.—The Federal Court of Appeals has reversed the decision of the district court at Cheyenne, Wyo., upholding the Teapot Dome oil lease obtained by Harry F. Sinclair from the government while Albert B. Fall was Secretary of the Interior.

The circuit court's decision is sweeping in its effect, and orders the lower court immediately to cancel the lease of the Mammoth Oil Company (controlled by Sinclair) and to enjoin it from further trespassing on government lands. Former United States Senator Kenyon of Iowa is the presiding judge of the circuit court. The decision rebukes District Judge Kennedy of Cheyenne, who upheld the lease. Judge Kenyon and his associates declared that Sinclair secured the contract by fraud and corruption.

"A trail of deceit, falsehood, subterfuge and corruption, at times indistinct, but nevertheless discernible, runs through the transactions incident to and surrounding the making of this lease," the court said.

The Sinclair interests will appeal to the United States Supreme Court. Both Doheny and Sinclair are now on the defensive. The Los Angeles federal district court set aside the Elks Hills oil lease, obtained by Doheny at the same time and in the same manner as Sinclair secured Teapot Dome. The former case is before the supreme court.

### LEATHER WORKERS GAIN

Chicago, Oct. 2.—Organized leather workers continue to advance, following their strike of a few years ago. Last week they secured three additional union-shop contracts.

## DAUGHERTY DESTROYED PAPERS; MIGHT INVOLVE HIM IN GRAFT

New York, Oct. 2.—When Harry M. Daugherty was attorney general of the United States he burned records of his brother's bank in Washington Court House, Ohio, which would involve him in alien property graft.

Mal S. Daugherty, brother of the former attorney general and president of the bank, made this acknowledgment in the federal district court, where Harry M. Daugherty is facing conspiracy charges.

The prosecution is attempting to prove that Richard Merton, German capitalist, gave $441,000 in Liberty bonds to the late John T. King, Republican national committeeman from Connecticut, for "help and speed" in rushing a $7,000,000 claim through the office of Thomas W. Miller, as alien property custodian, and the office of Harry M. Daugherty, as attorney general in the Harding cabinet. Miller and Daugherty are charged with conspiracy.

Merton testified that he turned over the $441,000 to King without asking for a receipt.

"Oh-h-h," said Federal Attorney Buckner, "the relations between you and King in this matter were that you trusted each other to carry out the agreement.

"Exactly," said Merton.

Some of these bonds have been traced to Mal S. Daugherty's bank. The bank's assistant cashier testified that ledger sheets were missing when the government called for her to produce the accounts of Mal S. Daugherty, Harry M. Daugherty and Jess Smith, who committed suicide in Washington. The government then subpoenaed Mal Daugherty, who said his brother destroyed the papers.

At a senate committee hearing several months ago the Ohio bank president refused to produce his books on the ground that the committee had no jurisdiction. This question is now before the United States supreme court. According to later developments, if the court rules in favor of the committee, the decision will be of no value in this particular case.

## ALLEGED LIBERTY LOVERS OFTEN HAVE SINGLE IDEA

New York, Oct. 2.—The mind that understands liberty is rare, said Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, in a speech in this city. "This mind always holds law subordinate to liberty's just domain," he said.

Dr. Butler discussed two other types of the human mind, designating one as primarily concerned with the protection of privilege and the other as striving to obtain universal conformity to its own standards.

The latter type was flayed by Dr. Butler. He said that the rights of the majority are as closely limited as the rights of the individual, and the same tests are to be applied to both.

"The worst foe of man's liberty is the creation of another man's will is monstrous," he said. "There is nothing more sacred than human personality and its right to its own beliefs and conduct with proper regard for the rights of others. There is no public interest apart from the interests of the individuals of whom the public is composed. In a sound organization of society each individual will gain by association and cooperation with his fellows, and only in this way will freedom of will be preserved.

"The mind reflecting conformity, when inflamed by emotion, hastens to violence and persecution. Its tongue uses the language of the law, but its heart is that of the cruel, merciless, narrow-minded and law-breaking tyrant. It burns, it hangs, it tortures and it destroys, but what it deports. Its frequency and its power are a constant challenge to education; for if knowledge and discipline can not break down this type, what will?

"Liberty and mere conformity, which is a hopeless attempt to bind human wills to the chariot wheels of numbers by the use of force."

### EMPLOYER'S "UNION" REJECTS WAGE CUT

Manchester, N. H., Oct. 2.—The company "union" of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company refused to accept a wage reduction the management insists is necessary to secure business.

The "union" is called "the workers' congress." The 250 delegates, representing 16,000 employes, voted to accept present rates, but adjourned without acting on the company's proposal. The management may reorganize its "union," that the wage cut can be legalized. This will make it possible to point to the employes' "voluntary action."

A strike of bona fide unionists in these mills was smashed several years ago, and the lake organization set up. Recently the company demoted several hundred straw bosses who were active in breaking that strike.

## POLICE AGENTS BOMB TO INJURE STRIKERS

Passaic, N. J., Oct. 2.—The police have resorted their terroristic tactics to break the textile strike. Nearly a score of these workers are arrested on bombing charges. Thomas McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, calls attention to this ancient trick of hostile employers and their police agents.

"The police of Passaic, Garfield and Clifton are again attempting to break the textile strike by arresting members of the union and grilling them in an attempt to implicate them in the latest bombing," said Henry Hunt, counsel for the strikers.

"Twenty-one men and a boy have been arrested and some of them held incommunicado for several days. The distress of the wives and children of these men, confined in jail without lawful warrant and brutally beaten by the police to exact confessions from them, can be imagined.

"From the beginning of the strike last April the police have pursued a continuous policy of law-breaking, clubbing, unlawful arrests and unreasonable bail. All this has failed to provoke the strikers to counter with like violence. Now, when the strike is about to be won, these strange bombings come into the picture.

"From an examination of the available evidence of these bomb cases, it appears highly probable that they are the result of a 'plant' by detective agencies employed to break the strike by charging violence against the strikers. It will be noticed that the bombings have been going on since May and no one has been injured and no property damage has been done. I am informed that some of the men implicated are employed in the mills."

### WOULD PEONIZE MEXICANS

Oakland, Cal., Oct. 2.—Officers of the California State Federation of Labor oppose the importation of Mexican laborers for temporary agricultural employment, and then have them returned when the harvest is over.

"This will mean," the unionists say, "that these workers will have to be held in peonage to prevent their escape and their acceptance of more desirable employment.

"This plan does not differ from the scheme advocated by Hawaiian sugar planters a few years ago—namely, the right to import Chinese coolies, who would be returned to China at the expiration of a certain period."

### THEATER WORKERS WIN

Rock Island, Ill., Oct. 2.—Theater workers in this city have won their strike and secured a union-shop agreement. Musicians, moving picture operators and stage employes were involved.

## BRITISH COAL OWNERS REJECT PEACE PLANS

London, England, Oct. 2.—In a speech in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer, blamed coal owners for a continuance of the British mine lockout. Churchill attempted to negotiate a settlement during the absence of Premier Baldwin on a vacation, but was blocked by owners. In the house Churchill pleaded with the miners to return to work and make district agreements. This is what the employers demand.

Premier Baldwin joined Churchill in stating that the government can not coerce the owners. The labor members of the house jeered this statement and pointed to coercive methods against the miners.

The entire trade union movement resentful against the government because of its amendment to the miners' seven-hour law, at the request of coal owners. The act now permits eight-hour agreements. The enforcement of poor laws, for centuries in charge of local authorities, has been taken over by the Minister of Health. The people pay poor taxes but in several areas have no voice in the distribution of same.

These and other aids to the coal owners make it difficult for the government to convince trade unionists and sympathizers that a neutral attitude is maintained.

### BUSINESS RECORDS CAN'T BE OPENED

Washington, Oct. 2.—The District of Columbia Supreme Court has enjoined the Federal Trade Commission from examining books and records of the Millers' National Federation of Chicago. The commission asked for the records to aid its investigation of the baking and milling industry.

The court ruled that this request is "an intrusion on the privacy of business and an infringement of constitutional rights for which the law affords no adequate remedy, and from that it follows that the intervention of equity is justified."

### LOAN TO FALL ILLEGAL

Washington, Oct. 2.—In a brief filed in the United States Supreme Court, the government contends that the loan of $100,000 by Edward L. Doheny, oil magnate, to Albert B. Fall, then Secretary of the Interior, was intended as a bribe.

The loan was made when Doheny was negotiating to secure the Elks Hills oil reserves. The lease was set aside by the Los Angeles district federal court, and Doheny has appealed.

## "WE TOLD YOU SO"

Organized labor can again say: "We told you so."

For half a century the workers insisted that shorter hours bring social development and increased production at less cost.

The eight-hour day has been established and still lower hours are urged. Henry Ford now announces a five-day week without wage cuts.

The workers' efforts to reduce hours is a tragic story of suffering and sacrifice. They were ridiculed, enjoined and jailed. Wherever they were not strong enough to take shorter hours, the request was answered by every resistance at the command of employers.

In the last few years former opponents have made a complete about face. Their present-day views sound like trade union declarations. Economists, industrial engineers, publicists, employers—all are repeating the story workers told again and again.

This change should inspire labor to greater agitation and education.

Improved machinery, mass production, applied chemistry and other scientific methods, and modern sanitation and hygiene all justify labor's position on the value of shorter hours.

Never before did a particular age so clearly sustain pioneers in the cause of right.

## EMPLOYERS ARE AIDED BY UNIFORMED THUGS

Providence, R. I., Oct. 2.—Stories of thuggery in connection with the strike of textile workers in Manville textile workers continue to circulate.

While the strike was on, the public was told of "rioting strikers," but the facts are now being developed that former Lieutenant Governor Toupin says the militia were called out, without the knowledge of the governor, although he is commander-in-chief of the state military forces.

The former state official also charges that the state police force established for terrorization campaigns in industrial disputes.

"During the Manville strike, mill owners, state sheriffs, state police and the state militia were on one side and the people were on the other," Mr. Toupin said.

"The addition of the state police to the forces of past years was very instructive, especially in showing why such police were created.

"Did they not reclaim their glory in the Manville strike by injuring distant spectators, by shooting into crowds that were running from them and by shooting through windows of second-story tenements in which were occupied by peaceful citizens?

"And did they not permit an armored car to travel from this city to Manville, while shooting at passengers of an automobile two miles from the strike zone?"

### UNION TYPOS SCALP FOE

Topeka, Kan., Oct. 2.—At the recent primary union printers defeated Jess Miley for superintendent of public instruction. Mr. Miley was too friendly to an anti-union printing establishment, while assuring the typos that he is "a friend of labor."

### WAGE LAW IGNORED

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 2.—Department store managers ignore the women's minimum wage law. The labor movement is demanding that the wage board enforce the act.

## Labor's Parliament Convenes; Anti-Political Contest Recalled

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 2.—Preparations are complete for the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, and it is predicted that the workers' parliament will be the most successful in its history.

Various locals have arranged for mass meetings to be addressed by President Green and other officials, who will also address groups of other citizens on the purposes of organized labor.

The report of the A. F. of L. executive council discusses various phases of the movement, gains made, and the new tactics of opposition forces.

This city has witnessed two previous A. F. of L. conventions—in 1890 and in 1896. The 1890 meeting was marked by a contest of politicians to secure seats in the convention. The New York central body elected Lucien Saniel as its delegate. He represented a local of the Socialist Labor party in the central body.

The convention refused to accept the Saniel credential and later declared that a central body would forfeit its charter if it seated representatives of a political party.

In that contest the trade unionists laid down a policy that is now accepted by every one. In 1890, however, the trade unionists were opposed by those who could not appreciate the value of economic power and who had exaggerated ideas of political strength.

## TRACTION MAGNATE OPPOSES UNIONISM

New York, Oct. 2.—Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, has declared that they will be discharged if they join the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

The employes were members of a company "union" and signed a yellow dog contract. Last July several hundred staged an independent strike, but were defeated. They are now interested in the bona fide trade union and Mr. Hedley calls attention to the yellow dog pledge in which they agreed on securing employment, not to belong to a trade union.

### HARTLEY DEFEATED

Seattle, Oct. 2.—Organized labor in this state is joyful over the defeat of Governor Hartley, who was refused a renomination in the recent primaries. Many of the governor's political associates are also defeated, and the next legislature will not be the regulation Hartley rubber-stamp kind.

## OLD BUGABOO RAISED AGAINST SHORT HOURS

New York, Oct. 2.—A women's eight-hour day would injure the textile and pottery industries of this state, employers told the State Industrial Recreation Commission.

Ignoring every experience as to the value of the shorter work day, the employers insisted that the long-hour system of southern mills gives the latter an advantage.

Miss Frances Perkins urged an increase in workmen's compensation benefits. She asked that the limit of $3,500 for a temporary total disability be increased to $5,000 and that the rules of evidence and procedure be changed to permit the admission of hearsay evidence when obtained from a reliable source.

The commission was created by the last legislature to investigate industrial conditions in this state. The commission is composed of members of the Senate and Assembly and representatives of labor, of employers and of the general public.

### THINGS MOVE QUICKLY BEFORE STRONG UNION

Chicago, Oct. 2.—Members of the Technical Engineers' union secured a 20 per cent increase in city council that range as high as $2,100 a year. The rank and file average is $18 a week.

These gains were made shortly after the workers affiliated with the International Federation of Technical Engineers,' Architects' and Draftsmen's Unions, a unit of the A. F. of L.

The technical employes have pleaded with the city council to raise wages, but they were unsuccessful until they affiliated and secured the backing of organized labor.

### LONGSHOREMEN JOIN UNION

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 2.—An employers' substitute for the International Longshoremen's Union has failed and these workers are joining the legitimate trade union. The employers organized a "Canadian union," but the workers have discovered that rabid nationalism is another name for low wages, speeding up and increased accidents.

## Educational Course Of Union Will Train Workers To Think

New York, Oct. 2.—In its latest bulletin the educational department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union explains its purpose and announces its policy for the coming year.

"The function of workers' education," it is stated, "is to assist in the working class movement in making the world a better place for all. The truth is clear that it is the mission of the working class movement to end the inequalities and injustices which they suffer, and that they can accomplish this only through organization. But it is equally clear that economic strength is much more effective if directed by intelligent, well informed, clear-thinking men and women.

"The purpose of the educational activities of the I. L. G. W. U. is to provide the labor movement with such men and women. The courses arranged for the educational department from scientific methods, and modern sanitation and hygiene all justify labor's position on the value of shorter hours.

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"The purpose of the educational activities of the I. L. G. W. U. is to provide the labor movement with such men and women. The courses arranged for the educational department from the union those facts of the social sciences which may serve as a basis for sound conclusions, may help create true social and spiritual values and may train them for active and successful participation in the labor movement as leaders and workers.

"The members of our union who attend the lectures and courses learn a great deal about matters connected with their industry, their organization, the union and the labor movement. They learn some of the psychologic laws which govern the relations between human beings. They are inspired by literature which deals with life, hopes and sorrows of other men and women.

"Knowledge of conditions outside the union is essential to those who would be of the greatest usefulness to their union and the labor movement."

Fannia M. Cohn is executive secretary of the educational department.

## WORLD COURT ISSUE IS TANGLED; SENATE RESERVATIONS CHANGED

Washington, Oct. 2.—The nations assembled at Geneva have amended reservations passed by the United States senate when that body voted to join the World Court.

Reservation No. 5 provides that the World Court shall make no advisory opinion affecting the United States without the consent of this country.

The Geneva amendment provides that the World Court shall decide whether the matter affects this country. If the court rules in the negative an opinion can be rendered, regardless of the objection by the United States.

Senate reservation No. 4, which provides that the United States may withdraw from the court, is also changed. The nations declare, in effect, that if the United States reserves the right to withdraw from the court, they—the other nations—are likewise entitled to withdraw their acceptance of this reservation.

The refusal of the nations to specifically accept or reject the senate reservations and the adoption of the amendments present a new situation.

The president has intimated that the senate reservations must be accepted as passed by the senate if the United States is to join the World Court.

This, together with recent anti-court developments among senators, has not strengthened World Court advocates in the senate. Well informed persons are inclined to the opinion that as matters now stand it is doubtful if the senate will accept the new conditions.

Senator Moses, Republican and foe of the World Court, expresses this view of the irreconcilables:

"The American reservations do not admit of the attachment of counter reservations. They are to the effect that the United States will become a member of the World Court after the reservations attached by the senate have been accepted. The language is plain. The individual nations may or may not accept. If they do not, then the United States is not a member of the court, and it seems to me that in that event the only thing left for the president to do would be to politely acknowledge the communication from the League of Nations' members who have been discussing the American reservations, and let it rest there. That would be the end as far as we are concerned."

Senators who are friendly to the World Court do not agree that the president has the power to bury the subject. They insist that communications from League of Nations' members should be submitted to the senate. Even if the president did not Senator Moses' suggestion, it is pointed out, the senate could request that the documents be transmitted to it.

## WORLD DISARMAMENT IS AGAIN SUGGESTED

Washington, Oct. 2.—Following the breakdown of the recent conference at Geneva that was called to prepare a program for a world disarmament conference, the League of Nations proposes a general disarmament conference to be held within a year.

The value of this proposal is questioned by administration spokesmen, who ask how unity of action is possible when the nations failed to agree on a program of action.

The various nations disagree on the submarine, airship, on the reduction of armies and the general military power of various industrial nations. These differences caused the split in the preliminary conference.

Military authorities no longer consider an army and navy the sole military strength of a nation. Geographical location, raw material and the ability to change industrial machinery into munitions factories are now considered. The rapidity with which commercial airplanes can be changed to warplanes is a factor. These considerations could not agree on these questions, the preliminary conference failed.

## CHANGE OF CLIMATE LITTLE AID TO T. B.

New Haven, Conn., Oct. 2.—The theory that a change of climate is the chief factor in the cure of tuberculosis was denied by Dr. Allen K. Krause, tuberculosis specialist at John Hopkins university, in an address before the Medical Congress.

"We know of hundreds of cases which have been arrested or cured without patients going to a particular climate," said Dr. Krause. "What generally happens, when a patient does change climate, is the same as what happens when any sick person is in new surroundings. His mind is taken from his own illness, and in this way a change of climate is beneficial.

"Physicians, in prescribing a change of climate, should remember that 70 per cent of their patients can not afford it and when the one has the personal means and can stand the stress of traveling, a change need not be prescribed."

### GRAIN COMPANY CITED

Chicago, Oct. 2.—The Armour Grain Company of Chicago is charged with manipulating the market to affect the price of grain, and has been cited by Secretary Jardine of the Department of Agriculture, to "show cause why an order should not be issued directing all contract markets to refuse trading privileges to it."

The company is accused of mixing screenings with a good grade of rye and then securing warehouse receipts for the latter commodity which were used for trading purposes.

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## FAVOR HIGH WAGE, BUT ONLY IN THEORY

London, England, Oct. 2.—British capitalists are in theoretical accord with the high wage theory, but they lower rates on every occasion. In the five years from 1921 to 1925 wages in the main industries were reduced over $50,000,000 a week. This does not include farm laborers, government employes, shop assistants, clerks and domestic servants. Employers have encouraged these wage cuts, while joining with capitalists in professing faith in a new day.

While these forces proclaim their loyalty to the high-wage system, they use every means—industrial, political and propagandist—to lower wages. "Many of these hypocrites are piling up unheard-of wealth," says the Daily Herald, organized labor's official newspaper.

"It is necessary to remember these facts in order to gain a true perspective of the miners' epic struggle. The miners, it has been said, would fight, it can not be repeated too often, are fighting the battle of every British wage earner. They are the core and center of working-class resistance to low wages. If they are defeated, other sections of the workers' army will be beaten in detail."

Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 2.—"Low wages is national suicide," said John Wheatley, member of parliament, at a trade union conference in this city.

Bad trade, he said, was the direct result of low wages. The doctrine that still lower wages would improve trade was humbug. "The miners are our national guard. If they are crushed, Great Britain will become Poor Britain," he said.

### SMALL COMPENSATION NOT UPHELD BY JUDGE

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 2.—District Court Judge Hastings refused to enjoin state workmen's compensation authorities from hearing the complaint of an injured worker who was ignorant of his rights when he accepted an inadequate settlement.

The worker, who is 77 years old, was given $1,500 by the Armour Packing Corporation. Two-thirds of the money was paid to a hospital. Later the worker discovered that he had been victimized and appealed to the compensation commission for a proper award. The commission asked that the hearing be enjoined, but Judge Hastings declined.

### BATTLESHIP FOE DIES

Washington, Oct. 2.—The death of Rear Admiral Fullam, retired, marks the passing of an outspoken foe of the battleship. On every occasion, in newspapers and before congressional committees, he expressed his belief that the airplane and submarine have doomed the battleship as a major factor in warfare. "Aircraft will win the next war," he frequently said.